

PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Community Engagement Policy

This statement sets out the Parish Council's approach to engaging with the community.

1. Aims and Objectives

1.1 Pirbright Parish Council is a non-party political, open and transparent council, which values the opinions of the community that it serves. It has in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, listen to the needs and aspirations of the community.

2. Defining the Community

2.1 Pirbright Parish Council is keen to reach all groups and individuals who work or live in the area. It has historical links with the MoD, the local church, educational establishments and the many voluntary groups working for the good of the Parish, to ensure that as wide a cross-section of the community as possible can have access to the parish council and its services.

3. Provision of Information to the Community

3.1 Pirbright Parish Council communicates with its community in the following ways:

- A website which provides links to many other useful services including the principal authorities.
- An annual report which is published on the website.
- Monthly newsletters which are delivered to every household in the Parish.
- Publishing of agendas on the Parish notice boards and on the website.
- The Parish's involvement in the Annual Parish Meeting with its public question time.
- The annual external audit offers the opportunity for questions to be asked about the latest statement of accounts.
- News items for the local press.

4. Opportunities for Community Involvement

4.1 Pirbright Parish Council will make every opportunity available to the electorate to ensure community involvement. These will include the following methods:

- The Parish Council has a public forum session at every council meeting, where the electorate can raise issues "in relation to the business on the agenda or can request any matter to be discussed at a subsequent meeting."
- The Annual Parish Meeting.
- Commenting on planning issues.

5. Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

5.1 Parish Council meetings are open to the public and there is the opportunity for parishioners to make representations and ask questions.

5.2 Written requests will be investigated and either dealt with by the Full Council or the appropriate Committee.

6. Involvement in Partnerships

6.1 Pirbright Parish Council has representation on various Partnerships and Committees. The Parish Council values the opportunity to work closely with these partners. We believe in sharing information, subject to GDPR rules, and good practice for the benefit of the Parish. The Flood Forum clearly demonstrates the success of a partnership approach.

6.2 Pirbright Parish Council works closely with the following organisations:

- Guildford Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- SALC (Surrey Association of Local Councils)
- SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)
- Surrey County Council
- Thames Water
- Surrey Police
- Surrey Wildlife Trust

6.3 The Parish Council has representatives on the following:

- Lord Pirbright's Hall & Recreation Ground Charity
- Pirbright in Need Charity
- Lempriere Trust Charity

7. Role of Council Members and Officers

7.1 Where there is a specific issue, or new project, that the Parish Council wishes to consider, the Council will seek the views of the community who will be most affected. The residents of the Parish can have confidence that their views will be heard, and that the Council will work with the community to reach a common goal.